

United States Senate

March 17, 2015

Secretary Ashton Carter
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Carter:

I am writing to follow up on our last conversation, in which we discussed the importance of sustainment, modernization and reform efforts underway this year for our nuclear forces. I appreciate your expertise and leadership in this area and look forward to working with you in my role as the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee. In our meeting, we discussed the incredible work being done at Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane (NSWC Crane), and I would like to extend a formal invitation for you to visit NSWC Crane in the months ahead. Research and development programs underway at the lab are contributing vitally to national security priorities, and I believe you would find it valuable to see the work these incredible Hoosiers are doing in southern Indiana.

NSWC Crane was established in 1941 as a naval ammunition depot to produce, test, and store ordnance away from American coastlines. The facility now makes a unique contribution to America's national defense through its work on electronic warfare capabilities, missile defense technology, nuclear security programs, and special operations support. The technological developments generated at NSWC Crane directly support the most critical components of U.S. national security in an efficient, cost-effective way.

In line with a key tenant of the 2015 National Security Strategy and the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request, NSWC Crane's top initiative is its modernization work with the Navy Strategic Systems Program (SSP), supporting the nuclear triad. NSWC Crane is not only at the forefront of efforts to modernize Navy strategic systems but is also working with the Air Force to foster greater collaboration across the services.

Crane is also an important contributor to United States missile defense. In addition to advising the Missile Defense Agency on a range of issues, Crane also develops key radar technologies for the Aegis Weapons Systems. NSWC Crane applies this expertise in radar technology to radar restoration programs for more than 40 surface combatant ships.

As the threats of cyber warfare increase, the effort to protect assets across government, industry and academia are becoming increasingly complex. NSWC Crane is connected to the Department of Defense Cyber Security Range using a closed-loop internet protocol (IP) based network. Additionally, Crane is the Department of Defense Executive Agent for Microwave Tubes and Printed Circuit Board Technology. The lab is also a leader in the development of

electronic counterfeit detection, forensics and mitigation. It continues to develop its capacity in addressing the radiation effects for electronic components of nuclear assets.

NSWC Crane stands out in its ability to deliver effective, efficient, life-saving solutions to complex problems our military faces today. When you served as Deputy Secretary of Defense, NSWC Crane's technical expertise was successfully leveraged to develop PIPPER, an unclassified, Counter-IED solution for release to the Afghan Security Forces. NSWC Crane provided a viable solution in three weeks and had units ready to deliver in six months. NSWC Crane is also known as a Center of Excellence for Special Operations Weapons and Weaponry, delivering rapid, cost-effective solutions to the special operations community.

The Department of Defense has lauded NSWC Crane for its model technology transfer strategies and its leadership in creating effective partnerships between the military services, academic institutions, and industrial base. These partnerships allow NSWC Crane to leverage independent expertise, deepen its knowledge base and resources, and enhance national security while realizing cost savings for the U.S. taxpayer.

I am very proud of NSWC Crane's research and development accomplishments and continued dedication to creating state of the art solutions for warriors. I believe that this facility and its elite personnel afford a unique capability to the Department of Defense. I invite you to NSWC Crane to discuss ongoing projects of interest to you and for American national security.

Thank you for your leadership, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator